



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican
Affairs Commission

18-20 Trinity Street
Hartford, CT 06106
Tel. (860) 240-8330
Fax (860) 240-0315

E-Mail: lprac@cga.ct.gov
Web Site: www.cga.ct.gov/lprac

Chairperson

Isaías T. Díaz, Esq.

Vice Chair

Richard A. Cruz

Secretary

Yolanda Castillo

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Hon. Migdalia Castro

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Lourdes E. Montalvo

Dr. Agnes Quiñones

Norma Rodríguez-Reyes

Danny Torres

Elena Trueworthy, M.S.

Acting Executive Director

Werner Oyanadel

**Special Projects Director/
Grants Writer**

Lucia Goicoechea-Hernández

Senior Legislative Secretary

Clarisa Cardone

MINUTES
LPRAC Regular Commission Meeting
October 16, 2013
Legislative Office Building Room 2D
Hartford, CT
5:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present:	Isaías T. Díaz, Esq., Ramón L. Arroyo, Yolanda Castillo, Richard A. Cruz, Roberto Fernández, Jay González, Emanuela Palmares Leaf, Dr. Agnes Quiñones, Danny Torres and Elena Trueworthy, M.S.
Commissioners on the phone:	Dr. Eugene Salorio
Commissioners Absent:	Francisco R. Borres, Honorable Migdalia Castro, Lourdes Montalvo and Norma Rodríguez Reyes
Staff:	Werner Oyanadel, Acting Executive Director, Lucia Goicoechea Hernández and Clarisa Cardone, Sr. Legislative Secretary

Tape 1 A

Chairman Díaz, Esq. called the meeting to order and asked **Board Secretary Commissioner Castillo** to do roll call. Quorum was established.

Public Participation:

Chairman Díaz, Esq. called on the following speakers:

1. **Tom Maziarz of the Department of Transportation (DOT)** spoke to LPRAC about the Connecticut's Strategic Transportation planning process which is being led by the Connecticut Department of Transportation. CTDOT is seeking input from a broad cross-section of stakeholders in order to develop the plan. In specific Mr. Maziarz requested assistance from LPRAC with the contact information for Latino nonprofit organizations in Connecticut so that they can inform them of this new project.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. suggested the Spanish American Merchants Association (SAMA) and CAUSA INC.

Commissioner Dr. Quiñones suggested CALAHE (Connecticut's Association of Latinos in Higher Education) and the Latino Endowment Fund out of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

Commissioner Cruz spoke of the GBLN (Greater Bridgeport Latino Network) and that they can help disseminate any information that they have.

Commissioner Palmares Leaf suggested to also reaching out through Ethnic Media.

Mr. Oyanadel asked if they have allocated a specific budget for this outreach campaign and if not, he suggested that he prepares some public service announcements that can be published in Univision and Telemundo. He shall provide him a list of all the Latino Non-Profits with contact information.

Commissioner Torres came in at 5:41 p.m.

Motion made to suspend meeting by Commissioner Torres and seconded by Commissioner Castillo. Motion carries as follows:

9 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Cruz, González, Palmares-Leaf, Dr. Quiñones, Dr. Salorio, Torres and Trueworthy

5 Absent: Commissioners Borres, Castro, Fernández, Montalvo and Rodríguez Reyes

Motion made to return to meeting by Commissioner Dr. Quiñones and seconded by Commissioner Trueworthy. Motion carries as follows:

9 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Cruz, González, Palmares-Leaf, Dr. Quiñones, Dr. Salorio, Torres and Trueworthy

5 Absent: Commissioners Borres, Castro, Fernández, Montalvo and Rodríguez Reyes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to approve the minutes of September 18, 2013 by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Palmares Leaf. Motion carries as follows:

9 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Cruz, González, Palmares-Leaf, Dr. Quiñones, Dr. Salorio, Torres and Trueworthy

5 Absent: Commissioners Borres, Castro, Fernández, Montalvo and Rodríguez Reyes

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairman Díaz, Esq. reported to LPRAC his activities on behalf of the Commission as follows:

1. Remind everyone about LPRAC elections in November and recommended as stipulated by the agency's bylaws to call to action the Nominations Committee to assist LPRAC with the electoral process. He appointed Commissioners Fernández, Dr. Quiñones, and himself.
2. He was the keynote speaker at the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration hosted by the Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (CSSD) on behalf of LPRAC. As part of his presentation, Chairman Díaz spoke at length about the severe educational disparity and achievement gap in Connecticut between Hispanic youth and other racial groups. He encouraged CSSD staff to share LPRAC stats with others in the criminal justice field, with a goal of using the information to promote successful outcomes among Hispanic clients.
3. He requested support from LPRAC to send a letter to our congressional to seek a congressional gold medal for the Borinqueneers.
4. He participated on WNPR talk program about issues affecting the Latino community in our emerging political and civil influence along with Mr. Oyanadel and State Senator Andres Ayala.
5. He thanked everyone for their full support during his two terms as LPRAC Chairman.

Motion made to accept Chairperson's report by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries as follows:

9 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Cruz, González, Palmares-Leaf, Dr. Quiñones, Dr. Salorio, Torres and Trueworthy

5 Absent: Commissioners Borres, Castro, Fernández, Montalvo and Rodríguez Reyes

ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Oyanadel's written report included the following information:

1. LPRAC attended a public meeting at the Legislative Office Building on Wednesday, September 18, 2013 to discuss the outcome of the Connecticut Disparity Study conducted by the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE), in accordance with legislation adopted in the 2012 legislative session, Public Act 12-1 and Public Act 12-104, which stipulated that a disparity study be conducted of the state's Small and Minority Business Enterprise Set-Aside Program ("Set-Aside Program"). Findings from the study's initial research and analysis of Connecticut's current Set-Aside Program identified that:
 - The state's executive branch agencies and the other branches of state government that are responsible for awarding state contracts and overseeing the Set-Aside Program do not uniformly collect subcontractor contracting data, including payment information.
 - A review of the legal issues and case law, including presentations to the CASE Study Committee by experts on matters of race-based and gender-based programs, identified that subcontractor data and financial information is a critical component of conducting a valid disparity study. Additionally, it was noted that unless quality data are collected and available for analysis, the results of the disparity study could be challenged in court, which would negate the purpose of conducting the study.
 - Therefore, it is recommended that the disparity study be divided into four distinct phases: Phase 1: Connecticut's Set-Aside Program Review and Analysis, Legal Issues, and Stakeholder Anecdotal Information/Analysis; Phase 2: Diversity Data Management System Specification and Review of Agency Procedures and Practices Related to System Implementation, Best Practices Review and Analysis, and Establishing MBE/WBE Program Requirements Phase 3: Diversity Data Management System Testing, Econometric Model Acquisition and Testing,

Legal Issues Update, Agency Progress and Race-Neutral Measures Implementation Review, and MBE/WBE Company Survey; & Phase 4: Data Analysis and Goal Setting, Anecdotal Information/Analysis, and Final Project Report.

- **Suggested “Draft” Legislative Changes to the Set-Aside Program Statute**
On an interim basis, until completion of the disparity study, adopt legislation to:
 - Separate the state’s SBE Set-Aside Program from the MBE/WBE program. Rename the MBE/WBE program to be called the Connecticut MBE/WBE Opportunities Program;
 - On an interim basis until completion of the Disparity Study (See Phasing Plan) use current percentage of 6.25% of eligible contracting dollars as the goal (not set-aside) for the MBE/WBE Opportunities Program; &
 - Eliminate MBE/WBE certification requirement that only companies from Connecticut are eligible for the program.
2. The position of Executive Director for LPRAC continues moving forward within the Office of Legislative Management. They are currently interviewing candidates that qualified for a second interview which will probably end within two weeks. After the hiring committee decides which candidate to recommend their recommendation will move forward to Legislative Leadership for their final review and approval;
 3. On September 23rd, 2013 Dr. Marie Spivey Chairwoman of the Health Equity Commission (HEC) and I attended a meeting in the City of New Haven to discuss the work of the Health Equity Commission with the Chairman of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, State Representative Juan Candelaria;
 4. For public outreach efforts I also worked with several media stakeholders this past month on our most recent efforts developed by our Civic Engagement Ad Hoc Committee on the importance of voting on the upcoming municipal elections, I along our LPRAC Chairman participated in a radio interview on Connecticut Public Radio about the emerging political clout of Latinos in Connecticut, and I was interviewed by Univision as an “Orgullo Latino” during their Hispanic Heritage Celebration;
 5. In my liaison capacity for LPRAC I participated in roundtable discussion spearheaded by the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women about the issues facing domestic workers in Connecticut; I attended a public event coordinated by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) in West Hartford, I spoke about the work of LPRAC before a class of students at West Suffield High School, and worked with the LPRAC Chairman developing a PowerPoint Presentation for speaking engagement at the Judicial Branch for Hispanic Heritage Celebration, and participated in the 12th Anniversary of the Julia de Burgos Park celebration in Windham, Connecticut; &
 6. I also provided staff assistance to the Results Based Accountability Committee (RBA). The evaluation committee of LPRAC recommended awarding the contract for a LPRAC Population-Level Report Card to the Charter Oak Group, LLC.

The evaluation committee of LPRAC for this project was: Isaias T. Diaz, Esq., LPRAC Chairman; Lourdes Montalvo, LPRAC Commissioner; Roberto Fernandez, LPRAC Commissioner; and Werner Oyanadel, LPRAC Acting Executive Director, whom also acted as the Committee Chair of this assignment. For the record, the Committee members of this committee were each given a copy of a package which included only one proposal from Charter Oak Group, LLC and after a careful review of the information provided everyone in the committee agreed that the awarded respondent clearly demonstrated the ability, professional experience, and the appropriate references to accomplish the task described in the scope of work delineated in this RFP. **(Please see attachment B for additional information.)** The Committee also discussed the need to have a fact finding hearing about the state’s response to state emergencies to populations that do not speak English and recommends that the Commission votes tonight to forward with this recommendation;
 7. I also participated along with the majority of board members and staff of LPRAC at a retreat last Saturday, October 12, 2013 at the Pond House where the Commission discussed the LPRAC statute, bylaws, and current population trends. LPRAC also heard a presentation provided by Connecticut Voices for Children on School arrests, youth unemployment, and the Affordable Care Act. The Commission decided to prioritize Education, Self-Sufficiency, and Discrimination for its legislative agenda next year and specifically work on legislation for a School Arrest bill, push for the creation of a Juvenile Review Board, Create a new Secretary of English Language Learners that would report directly to the Governor of Connecticut, and make recommendations on the issues of state contracting for small business owners. (i.e., (1) separate the state’s SBE Set-Aside Program from the MBE/WBE program; (2) Rename the MBE/WBE program to be called the Connecticut MBE/WBE Opportunities Program; (3) On an interim basis until completion of the Disparity Study use current percentage of 6.25% of eligible contracting dollars as the goal (not set-aside) for the MBE/WBE Opportunities Program; & Eliminate MBE/WBE certification requirement that only companies from Connecticut are eligible for the program.
 8. Governor Malloy, Lieutenant Governor Wyman and members of the Latino Caucus of the Connecticut General Assembly issued an official proclamation on Tuesday, October 15th at the State Capitol in honor

of the heroic service provided by the U.S. Army's 65th Infantry Regiment, made up of Puerto Rican soldiers known as the "Borinqueneers" and offered their support for a well-merited national effort to seek a Congressional Gold Medal for their legendary endeavors.

Motion made to accept Acting Executive Director's report by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Dr. Quiñones. Motion carries as follows:

9 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Cruz, González, Palmares-Leaf, Dr. Quiñones, Dr. Salorio, Torres and Trueworthy

5 Absent: Commissioners Borres, Castro, Fernández, Montalvo and Rodríguez Reyes

PUBLIC INFORMATION/TALENT BANK COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes Chairperson for this committee tabled the report.

PRIORITIES & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Cruz, Chair for this committee reported that they are taking a look at the service disparity study set-aside programming into hopefully forming a committee. He has asked for a number of individuals to join him on this committee in order to take a closer look at the study to see how we can move forward with legislative recommendations for the upcoming legislative session in 2014. LPRAC decided at the LPRAC retreat to prioritize Education, Self-Sufficiency and Discrimination for our 2014 Legislative Agenda and specifically to work on legislation for school arrests, push for a creation of a juvenile review board which was one of the recommendations given by CT Voices, create a new secretary of English language learners on the area of education and definitely work on the set-aside regulations.

Commissioner Fernández came in at 6:15 p.m.

Commissioner Palmares Leaf said that she has volunteered to join the subcommittee.

Motion made to accept the Priorities and Legislation Committee report by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Dr. Quiñones. Motion carries as follows:

10 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Cruz, Fernández, González, Palmares-Leaf, Dr. Quiñones, Dr. Salorio, Torres and Trueworthy

4 Absent: Commissioners Borres, Castro, Montalvo and Rodríguez Reyes

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Torres, Chairman of this committee reported the following:

1. He said that they have discussed combining the 17th Annual Scholarship Awards and the 20th Anniversary Celebration at their meeting on Thursday, October 10, 2013. They want to recommend two potential locations for this event however; he just received word that they have to send the information to OLM for their review to be compliant with the state bid process so we will forgo visiting any other sites at this time.
2. Also, Commissioner Dr. Quiñones is helping us to get Justice Sonia Sotomayor as our Keynote Speaker for our event in 2014. She has asked the staff to prepare a letter to send it to Senator Don DeBartolomeo, Representative Hilda Santiago, Representative Juan Candelaria and at the request to Representative Hilda Santiago to serve it to Senator Chris Murphy as well. Also, Commissioner Castillo has advanced the name of Congressman Gutierrez from Chicago and we have asked the staff to reach out to both of them. If they both accept, the board can decide which of the two we can bring at this time. Commissioner Dr. Quiñones also asked that we consider having a VIP event the night before our major event in hopes so we can attract some more funds for the scholarship awards and to give people a chance to buy her book and an opportunity for photos with her.
3. Also, the retreat was held last Saturday at the Pond House and the food and the atmosphere was great.
4. Staff has prepared a draft of some of the key elements discussed to determine which will be our priorities for the next two years. Please review it and provide your feedback so we can put together a working document to help and form our work especially during the legislative session.
5. He also said that the staff and he will go on the radio on Tuesday, October 29, 2013 to discuss changing the batteries in the smoke detectors and to distribute our remaining gun locks through a promotion through the radio. Mr. Felix Viera was kind enough to give the time to Commissioner Montalvo.
6. The Committee has recommended the formation of a task force to review our nominations of scholarship applications for 2014 in order to incorporate some of the key pieces we know the applicants need and to make the process more user friendly. Four Commissioners already stepped up.

Tape 1 B

Commissioner Torres, Chairman of this committee continued with the following:

- So far we have four Commissioners and the staff and we would like more.
7. The U.S. Stamp exhibit has been taken down officially as the Hispanic Month ended yesterday. The dates of October 1 through 31st, 2014 will be the next time that they will be out for display.
 8. There is a total of \$12,050.69 remaining in the scholarship account after paying the Bond Ball Room.

Motion made to accept the Special Projects Committee report by Commissioner Fernández and seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries as follows:

10 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Cruz, Fernández, González, Palmares-Leaf, Dr. Quiñones, Dr. Salorio, Torres and Trueworthy
4 Absent: Commissioners Borres, Castro, Montalvo and Rodríguez Reyes

RBA COMMITTEE

Mr. Oyanadel reported that the RFP that was written by the Office of Legislative Management is finalized. The subcommittee members, Commissioners Fernandez, Díaz, Esq. and Montalvo worked in developing the recommendation which pending final approval/signatures shall be Charter Oak Group.

Motion made to accept the RBA Committee report by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries as follows:

10 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Cruz, Fernández, González, Palmares-Leaf, Dr. Quiñones, Dr. Salorio, Torres and Trueworthy
4 Absent: Commissioners Borres, Castro, Montalvo and Rodríguez Reyes

AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

As Commissioner Borres Chairperson for this Committee is absent, report is tabled.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Díaz, Esq. spoke about the LPRAC elections and asked everyone interested in a position for the E-Board to submit a nomination form to the LPRAC staff for vetting purposes.

Motion made to authorize Chairman Díaz, Esq. to draft correspondence to send to Congress to urge their support in honoring the Borinqueneers federally made by Commissioner Fernández and seconded by Commissioner Dr. Quiñones.

Discussion:

Commissioner Arroyo said that it is a good idea to be on the record in support of the Borinqueneers and that he would support such motion. He also recommended that the staff conduct research on the subject with organizations such as the National Puerto Rican Coalition from Washington, DC.

Motion carries as follows:

10 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Cruz, Fernández, González, Palmares-Leaf, Dr. Quiñones, Dr. Salorio, Torres and Trueworthy
4 Absent: Commissioners Borres, Castro, Montalvo and Rodríguez Reyes

Motion made to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. by Commissioner Arroyo and seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries as follows:

10 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Cruz, Fernández, González, Palmares-Leaf, Dr. Quiñones, Dr. Salorio, Torres and Trueworthy
4 Absent: Commissioners Borres, Castro, Montalvo and Rodríguez Reyes

Respectfully submitted by,

Yolanda Castillo, Secretary
LPRAC Board

YC:cjc